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Youth court statistics in Canada, 2010/2011

by Shannon Brennan

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Youth court statistics in Canada, 2010/2011

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. not available for any reference period
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0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
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Youth court statistics in Canada, 2010/2011: Highlights

- In 2010/2011, the number of cases completed in Canada's youth courts declined for the second year in a row, down 7% from the previous year. There were over 52,900 cases completed in youth court, involving over 178,000 charges.

- The decline in youth court cases occurred in every province, with the exception of Manitoba. Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island reported the largest declines, down 15% and 13% respectively.

- The majority (73%) of cases completed in youth courts involved non-violent offences. The most common cases completed in youth courts in 2010/2011 were for theft (15%), *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* offences (11%), and break and enter (8%).

- For most offence types, the number of cases completed in youth courts remained stable or decreased in 2010/2011. However, there were some individual offences which saw an increase in the number of cases from the previous year, namely criminal harassment (+13%), breach of probation (+7%) and failure to appear (+3%).

- Cases completed in youth courts were more likely to involve older youth (those aged 16 to 17) as accused (60%), compared to younger youth (those aged 12 to 15) (40%). Youth court cases were also more likely to involve males (77%) than females (23%).

- Over one-half of youth court cases (57%) resulted in a finding of guilt in 2010/2011. The proportion of guilty decisions varied by offence, with cases for youth being unlawfully at large resulting in an outcome of guilt most often (90%).

- Probation continued to be the most frequently ordered sentence for youth in 2010/2011, accounting for over one-half (58%) of all sentences imposed in guilty youth court cases. The median length of probation sentences ordered in youth court was 365 days.

- In 2010/2011, 16% of guilty youth court cases were sentenced to custody. Cases of attempted murder (78%) and being unlawfully at large (72%) were sentenced to custody most often.

- The use of custodial sentences for youth has decreased over the past 10 years, falling from 29% in 2000/2001 to 16% in 2010/2011. However, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of cases being sentenced to deferred custody and supervision since it became a sentencing option under the *YCJA*.

- In 2010/2011, the median length of custodial sentences imposed by youth courts was just over one month, at 35 days.

- Compared to 10 years earlier, youth court cases took longer to process in 2010/2011. The median elapsed time from first to last court appearance was 113 days in 2010/2011, over a month longer than the median elapsed time of 70 days in 2000/2001.

Youth court statistics in Canada, 2010/2011

by Shannon Brennan

In Canada, youth and adults accused of crimes have been governed by separate justice systems for over a century. From the introduction of the *Juvenile Delinquents Act* in 1908, to the *Young Offenders Act* in 1984, to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* enacted in 2003, it has been long acknowledged that the principles of justice that apply to adults are not necessarily suitable for youth (Casavant et al. 2008).

Attitudes surrounding youth and their involvement in Canada's justice system have transformed and evolved over many years. Under the current legislation, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, emphasis is placed on attempting to divert youth (ages 12 to 17) accused of minor, non-violent offences away from the formal court system through the use of diversionary and extrajudicial measures. These measures are meant to provide timely and meaningful consequences for youth while avoiding the stigma attached to formal involvement in the justice system (Department of Justice Canada 2011).

Although the number of cases completed in youth court has decreased since the implementation of the *YCJA*, many youth do still come into contact with the formal justice system (Milligan 2010). Statistics Canada collects information on youth court cases through the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS).

Using data from the youth component of the 2010/2011 ICCS, this *Juristat* article examines trends in youth court cases[1] More specifically, it looks at the number and types of cases completed at the national, territorial and provincial levels, and the characteristics of youth appearing in court. Further, the article examines case decisions, trends in sentencing, and the length of time taken to complete a case.

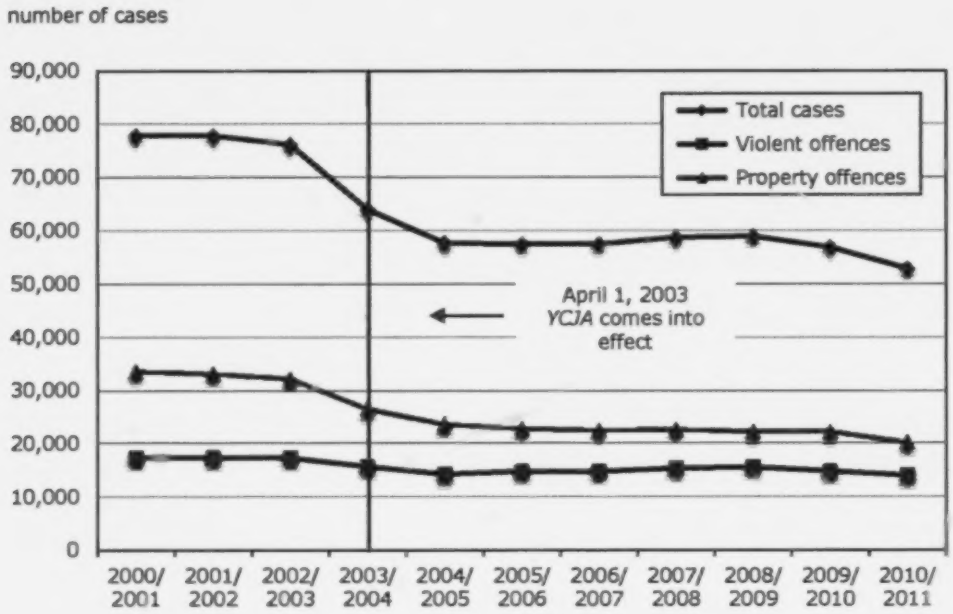
Number of cases completed in youth court declines for second year in a row

In 2010/2011, the number of cases completed in youth court declined for the second year in a row, down 7% from the previous year (Table 1). Overall, there were more than 52,900 cases completed in youth court in 2010/2011, involving over 178,000 *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences.

The number of cases completed in youth court has declined considerably (-32%) over the past decade. The most notable decreases occurred in 2003/2004 and 2004/2005, the two years following the implementation of the *YCJA* (Chart 1).

1. For information on 2010/2011 adult criminal court statistics in Canada, see Dauvergne 2012.

Chart 1
Cases completed in youth court, Canada, 2000/2001 to 2010/2011



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Total cases include violent offences, property offences, administration of justice offences, other *Criminal Code* offences, *Criminal Code* traffic offences and other federal statutes.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Almost every province reported a decline in youth court cases in between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.[2] The largest decrease was seen in Nova Scotia, down 15% from the previous year, followed by Prince Edward Island (-13%) and Alberta (-11%). Manitoba was the only province to report an increase in youth court cases in 2010/2011 (+3%) (Table 2). Overall, Saskatchewan recorded the highest rate of completed youth court cases, as has been the case since 1994/1995.

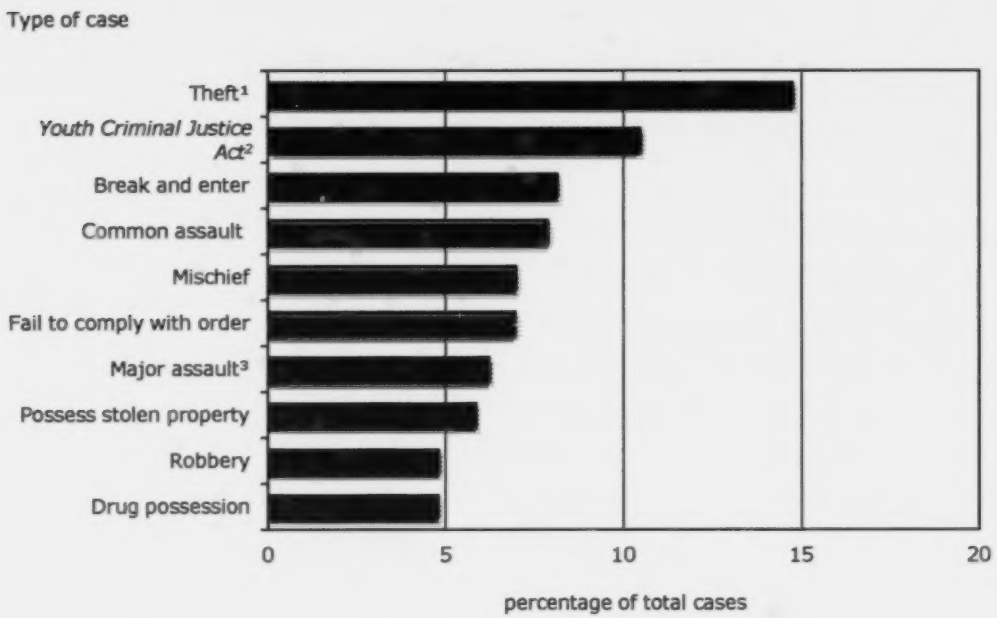
Majority of cases completed in youth court involve non-violent offences

The majority of cases completed in youth court in 2010/2011 involved non-violent offences.[3] More specifically, property offences, administration of justice offences, other *Criminal Code* offences, traffic offences and other federal statute offences (e.g., drug offences) accounted for close to three-quarters (73%) of cases completed in youth court. Violent offences accounted for the remaining 27% of youth court cases.

As in previous years, there were 10 offences that comprised the majority (78%) of youth court cases in 2010/2011 (Chart 2). The most common types of cases completed in youth court were theft (15%), *Youth Criminal Justice Act* offences (e.g., failure to comply with a sentence, failure to comply with a designated temporary place of detention) (11%), and break and enter (8%).

2. Jurisdictional differences in the structure and operation of courts may have an impact on survey results. Therefore, any comparisons between jurisdictions should be made with caution.
3. Youth court cases that involve more than one charge are counted according to the most serious offence rule. For further information, see Data source section.

Chart 2
Ten most common cases completed in youth court, Canada, 2010/2011



1. Includes, for example, theft over and under $5,000 as well as taking a motor vehicle without consent.
2. Includes the offences of inducing a young person, failure to comply with a sentence or disposition, publishing the identity of offenders, victims or witnesses and failure to comply with a designated place of temporary detention.
3. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Cases that involve more than one charge are counted according to the most serious offence.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

In 2010/2011, the decline in the number of completed youth court cases occurred across all major offence categories (Table 3). For example, cases involving violent offences declined by 5% from the previous year, and included decreases in uttering threats (-12%), and major assault (-7%). Despite the overall decline in youth court cases involving violent offences, there were some increases among individual offence types, most notably in cases involving criminal harassment, up by 13% from the previous year.

Cases involving property offences also declined in 2010/2011, down 9% from the previous year. Decreases were seen for all property offences, with the greatest declines occurring among cases involving fraud (-25%) and mischief (-13%).

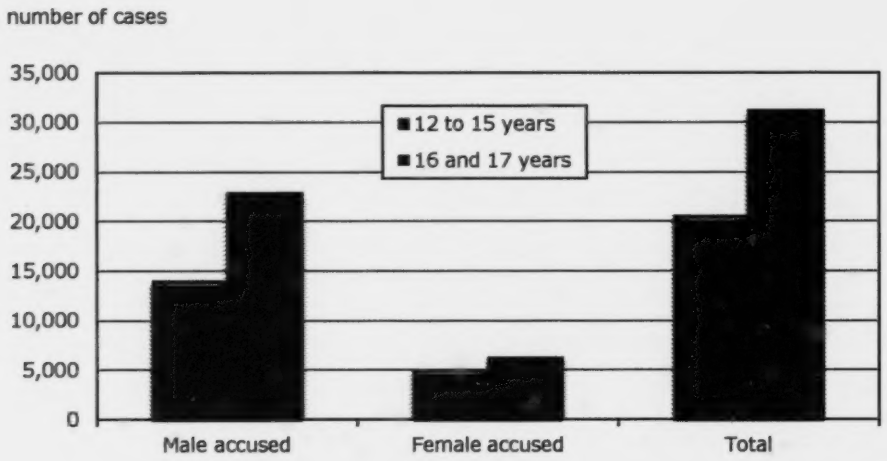
Criminal Code administration of justice cases, such as failure to comply with an order, also decreased in 2010/2011; however, the decrease did not occur across all offence types. For example, completed cases involving breach of probation and failure to appear both increased, up 7% and 3% respectively.

Cases involving *Criminal Code* traffic offences showed the greatest decline, decreasing by 16% from 2009/2010. Conversely, cases involving other federal statute offences (e.g., drug possession) showed the smallest decline at 2%.

Older youth most likely to appear in court

Police-reported data show that youth and young adults tend to be disproportionately accused of crime. In general, rates of offending increase incrementally among those 12 to 17, with rates peaking among 18 year olds (Brennan and Dauvergne 2011). Data from Canada's youth courts show a similar trend, despite the fact that not all crimes that come to the attention of police necessarily proceed to court. Overall, youth court cases were more likely to involve older youth (ages 16 and 17), compared to younger youth (12 to 15 years old).[4,5] This was true among both males and females (Chart 3).

Chart 3
Cases completed in youth court, by age group and sex of accused, Canada, 2010/2011



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Age represents the age of the accused at the time of the offence. Excludes cases in which the age and/or the sex of the accused was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

While older youth were the accused in most completed cases, this varied somewhat depending on the type of case. For example, impaired driving (96%) and prostitution-related cases (93%) predominantly involved youth aged 16 or 17. Conversely, sexual assault and other sexual offences cases were more likely to involve youth aged 12 to 15 (65% and 60% respectively).

As is the case with crime in general, the majority of youth court cases completed in 2010/2011 involved a male accused. More specifically, cases involving male accused accounted for 77% of the youth court caseload, while those involving females accounted for the remaining 23%.[6]

Regardless of the type of case, males were consistently more likely than females to be the accused. Cases with the highest representation of males included: sexual assault (98%), attempted murder (96%), and other sexual offences (95%). Cases with the highest representation of females included common assault (37%), theft (37%) and fraud (35%).

4. Reflects the accused person's age on the day the offence was alleged to have been committed.
5. Excludes all cases where the age of the accused was unknown.
6. Excludes all cases where the sex of the accused was unknown.

Proportion of youth court cases resulting in an outcome of guilt continues to decline

Previous studies have shown that in general, youth court cases typically result in one of three outcomes. The first and most common is a guilty outcome, where the accused youth pleads guilty or is found guilty for having committed a criminal offence. The second outcome is a stay/withdrawal or dismissal, in which the court stops or interrupts proceedings against the accused. Finally, youth court cases may result in an acquittal[7] where the youth is found not guilty of the charges presented before the court.[8]

In 2010/2011, over one-half (57%) of youth court cases resulted in a guilty outcome, while an additional 42% of cases were stayed, withdrawn or dismissed. Similar to previous years, few cases completed in youth court were acquitted (1%), while another 1% resulted in another type of decision, such as the accused being found not criminally responsible or unfit to stand trial (Table 4).

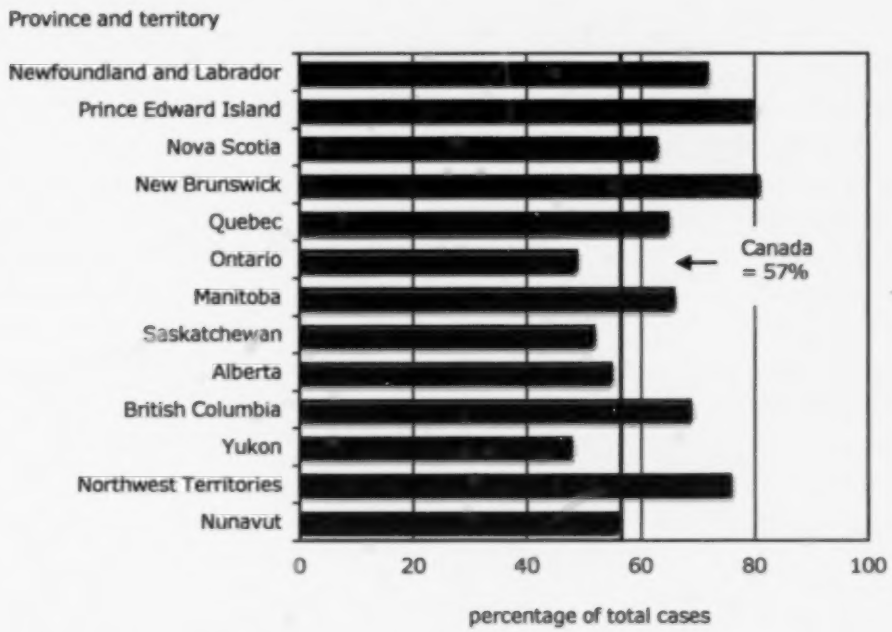
Over the past 10 years, youth courts have seen a shift in youth court decisions, with the proportion of cases resulting in guilty outcomes decreasing, and those being stayed or withdrawn increasing. For example, in 2000/2001, 67% of cases resulted in a decision of guilt, compared to 57% of cases in 2010/2011. Conversely, the proportion of cases being stayed or withdrawn increased from 31% in 2000/2001 to 42% in 2010/2011.

This shift in youth court decisions may be related in part to the introduction of extrajudicial measures under the *YCJA*. As more youth are being dealt with through the use of diversionary and extrajudicial measure programs, fewer cases (and charges) are proceeding to youth court. Studies have shown that youth court cases are more likely to result in a guilty finding when there are multiple charges (Moyer 2005). Further, the increased use of extrajudicial measures may also impact the proportion of cases being stayed or withdrawn. In general, charges are stayed or withdrawn upon successful completion of extrajudicial sanctions (Public Prosecution Service of Canada 2004).

There was considerable variation among the provinces and territories in regards to youth court outcomes.[9] The proportion of youth court cases resulting in guilty outcomes ranged from 81% in New Brunswick, to 49% in Ontario (Chart 4). This variation may be partly related to the use of pre-charge screening, where a Crown prosecutor (as opposed to police) determines whether a charge is officially laid and proceeds to court. New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia, all have pre-charge screening systems in place. In all three provinces, the proportion of youth court cases resulting in a finding of guilt exceeded the national average.

7. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably, resulting in an under-count of the number of acquittals in that province. In other provinces, the number of acquittals may be over-counted due to administrative practices.
8. A small proportion of cases result in other decisions including: final decisions of found not criminally responsible waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes mistrials, the court's acceptance of a special plea (e.g., "autrefois acquit"), cases which raise *Charter* arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial following a fitness hearing.
9. See Note 2.

Chart 4
Guilty cases in youth court, by province and territory, 2010/2011



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Jurisdictional differences in the structure and operation of courts may have an impact on survey results. Therefore, any comparisons between jurisdictions should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Cases involving property and violent offences result in guilty findings less often than other cases

Cases involving particular types of offences were more likely to result in a guilty finding compared with others. Of the major offence categories, cases involving violent and property offences were among the least likely to result in a decision of guilt (57% and 48% respectively), while cases involving *Criminal Code* traffic offences were the most likely (82%) (Table 4).

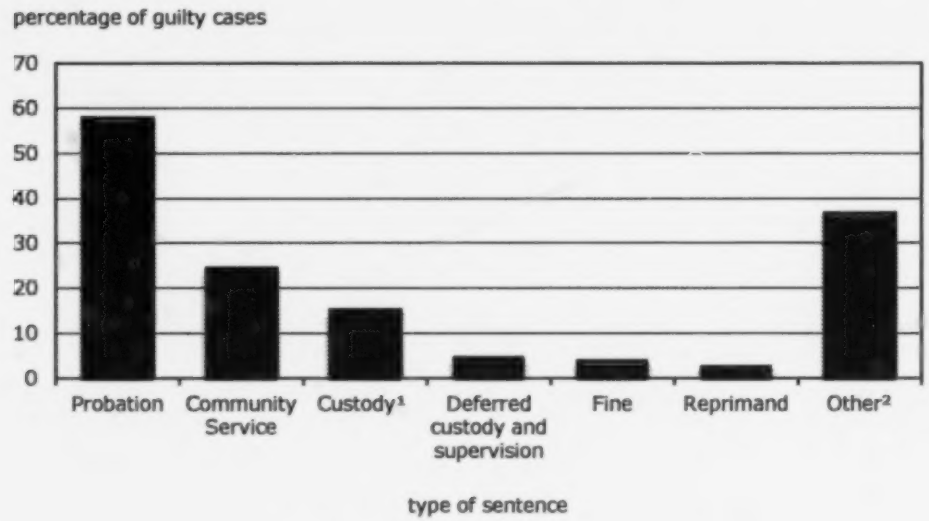
Among the individual offence types, cases for youth being unlawfully at large were found guilty most often (90%), followed by impaired driving cases (86%), and offences under the *YCJA* (82%). Conversely, drug possession cases were the least likely to end with a decision of guilt (34%).

Probation most common sentence imposed by youth courts

In general, the purpose of sentencing is to hold youth accountable for the offence committed. Under the *YCJA*, judges must consider sentences that will have meaningful consequences for the youth and promote the youth's rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Further, the sentence should also take into consideration the long-term protection of the public (Justice Canada 2011). Given the complexities of determining an appropriate sentence, many youth court cases result in more than one type of sanction (e.g., probation and community service order).

Similar to previous years, probation was the most common type of sentence imposed by youth courts in 2010/2011 (Chart 5, Table 5). A form of community-based sentence, youth on probation are placed under supervision of a probation officer or other designated officer, and must abide by a number of conditions imposed by the court (e.g., keep the peace, appear in court as required). Overall, more than one-half (58%) of guilty youth court cases were given a sentence of probation, either as a single sentence or in combination with another sentence.

Chart 5
Guilty cases in youth court, by type of sentence, Canada, 2010/2011



1. Figures for custody include a mandatory period of post-custody supervision.
2. Other sentences include absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counseling programs and conditional discharge.

Note: Cases may involve more than one type of sentence, therefore, percentages do not total 100%. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Other sentences imposed by not shown include: conditional sentences, intensive support and supervision, and attending a non-residential program.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Under the *YCJA*, youth can be sentenced to probation for a maximum of two years. As in previous years, in 2010/2011 the median length of probation sentences imposed was 365 days (Table 5).[10]

Community service orders were another relatively common sentence imposed by youth courts in 2010/2011. Overall, 1 in 4 guilty youth court cases resulted in the youth having to perform unpaid work for the community. The provisions of the *YCJA* stipulate that sentences of community service may not exceed 240 hours and must be completed within one year.

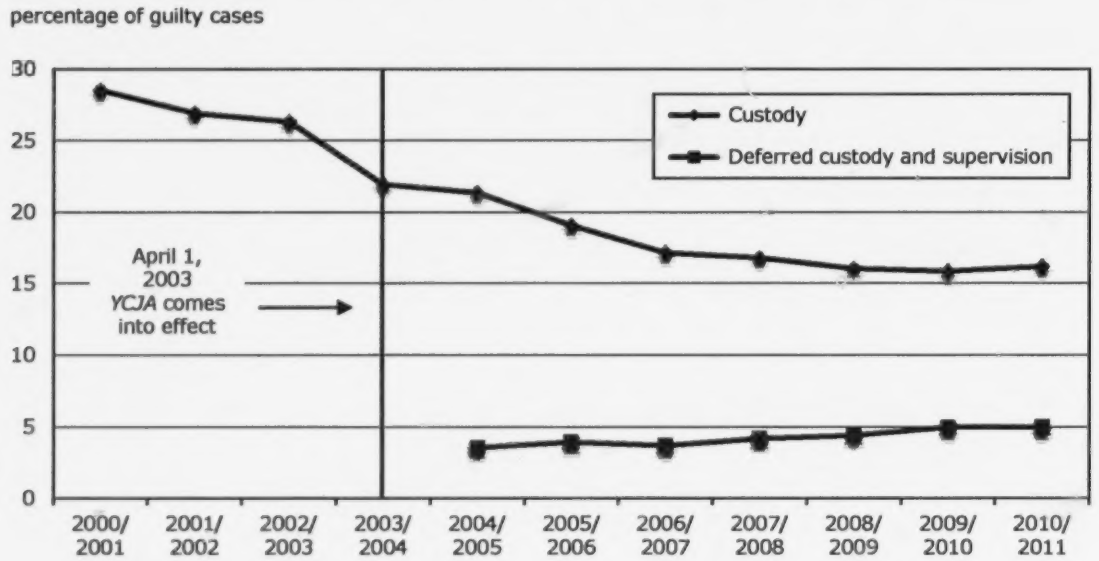
Fewer youth sentenced to custody

Custodial sentences, in which youth are detained in a correctional facility, are viewed as the most serious of all available sentencing options. Under the *YCJA*, all reasonable alternatives to custody must be considered before a judge may impose a custodial sentence. On the whole, custodial sentences for youth are meant to be used primarily for violent and serious repeat offenders (Justice Canada 2011).

In 2010/2011, 16% of guilty youth court cases were sentenced to custody. Consistent with the objectives of the *YCJA*, the use of custody has decreased over the past 10 years (Chart 6). More specifically, the proportion of guilty youth court cases being sentenced to custody fell from 29% in 2000/2001 to 16% in 2010/2011. Conversely, the use of deferred custody and supervision orders has increased slightly since being introduced in 2003.[11] Seen as an alternative to custody, deferred custody orders allow a young person who would otherwise be sentenced to custody to serve their sentence in the community under a set of strict conditions. If these conditions are violated, the young person may be sent to custody to serve the balance of their sentence.

10. Excludes cases of probation where the length of the sentence was not known.
11. Based on a subset of jurisdictions who have reported *YCJA* sentencing data to the ICCS since 2004/2005.

Chart 6
Guilty cases in youth court by selected sentence, 2000/2001 to 2010/2011

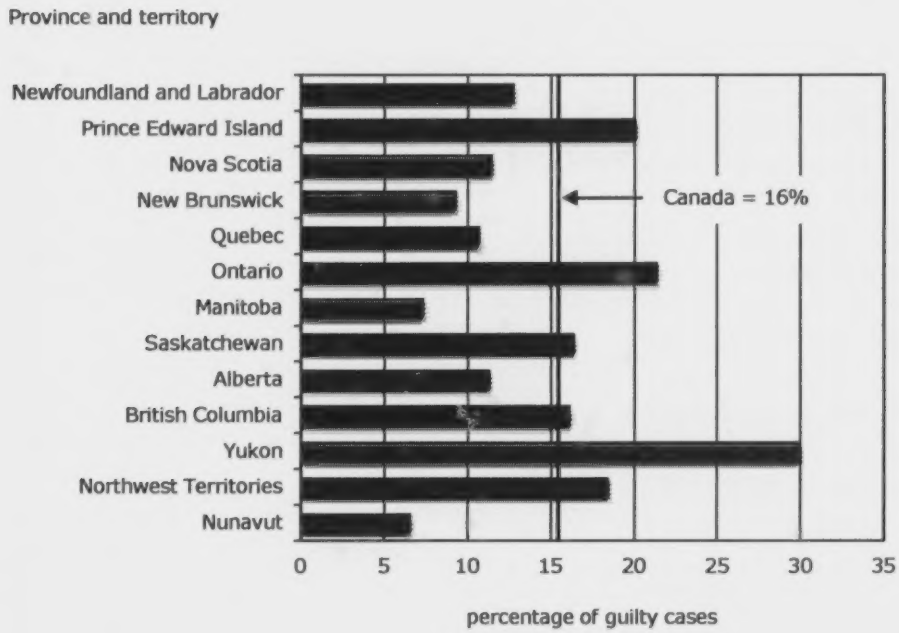


Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Deferred custody and supervision is a sentence under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* effective April 1, 2003. Includes only those jurisdictions for which *YCJA* sentencing data was available as of 2004/2005: Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

In general, there was wide variation in the use of custody across the provinces and territories (Chart 7).[12] Overall, Ontario (21%) and Prince Edward Island (20%) reported the highest use of custody, while Manitoba (7%) and New Brunswick (9%) reported the lowest.

12. See Note 2.

Chart 7
Guilty cases in youth court sentenced to custody, by province and territory, 2010/2011



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Jurisdictional differences in the structure and operation of courts may have an impact on survey results. Therefore, any comparisons between jurisdictions should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

In 2010/2011, custodial sentences were ordered primarily for cases involving administration of justice offences and violent offences. More specifically, attempted murder cases and cases where youth were found to be unlawfully at large resulted in custodial sentences most often (Table 5).

In 2010/2011, the median length of custodial sentences imposed by youth courts was just over one month, at 35 days[13] (Table 5). However, the amount of time sentenced to custody varied by type of case, with cases involving violent offences receiving the longest terms of custody. More specifically, homicide cases received the longest custodial sentences at 795 days, followed by attempted murder (575 days), and sexual assault (150 days).

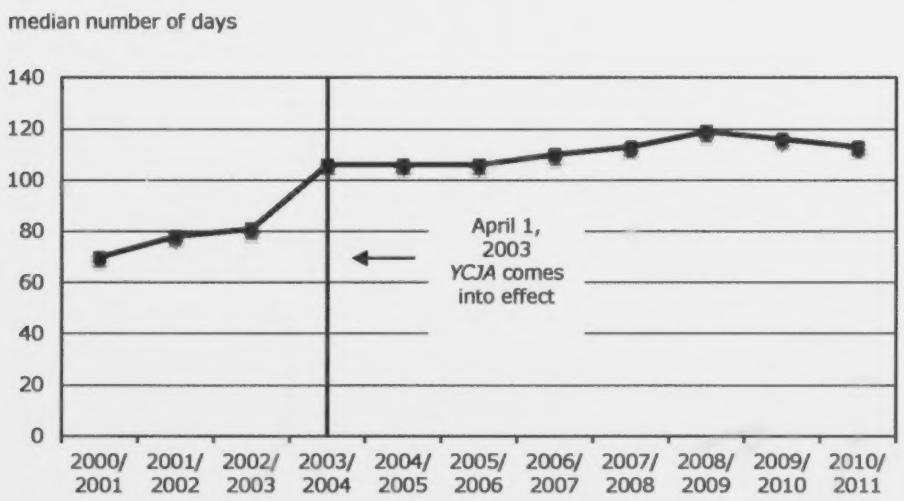
Time taken to complete cases in youth court has increased over past 10 years

In addition to collecting information on the number and types of cases completed in youth court, the ICCS is able to calculate the length of time from the youth's first court appearance to the date the case is completed.

On the whole, the median length of time to process cases in youth court has increased over the past 10 years. In 2010/2011, the median elapsed time to complete a youth court case was 113 days, over a month longer than the median elapsed time of 70 days in 2000/2001 (Table 3). The largest increase in processing times occurred between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004; however, since then, the length of time to process cases in youth court has remained in the range of three and a half months (Chart 8).

13. The length of custodial sentences may be affected by time spent in pre-trial detention. For example, 'time served', the time spent in custody prior to the decision of the court and sentencing, which often occurs with more serious offences, is likely to affect the sentence length.

Chart 8
Median length of cases completed in youth court, 2000/2001 to 2010/2011

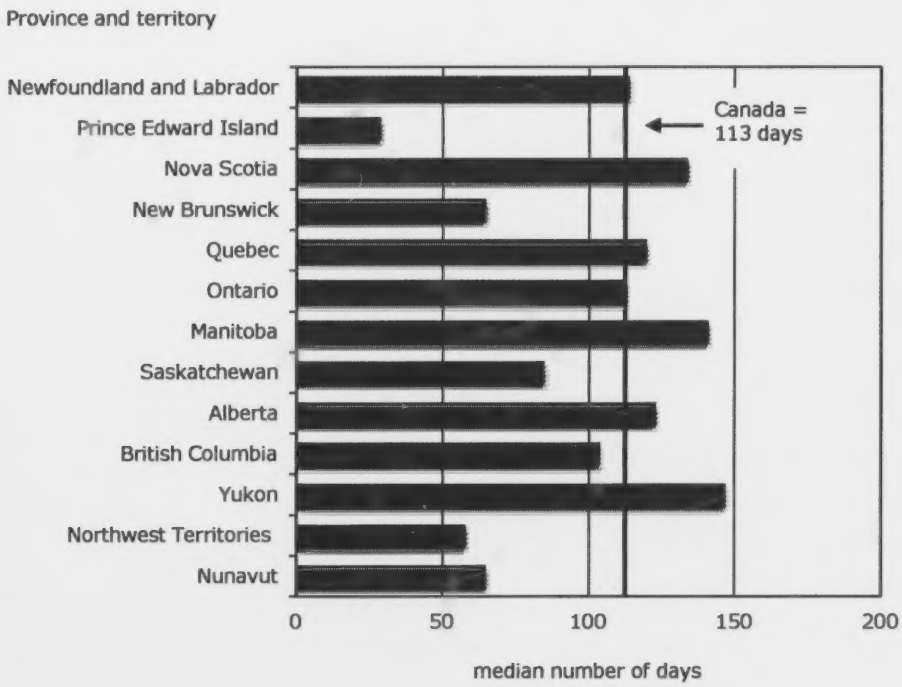


Note: The median represents the mid-point of the number of days taken to complete a case, from the first to last court appearance. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

There was considerable provincial and territorial variation in the amount of time taken to process youth court cases in 2010/2011 (Chart 9)[14]. Among the provinces, median processing times were longest in Manitoba (141 days) and shortest in Prince Edward Island (29 median days).

14. See Note 2.

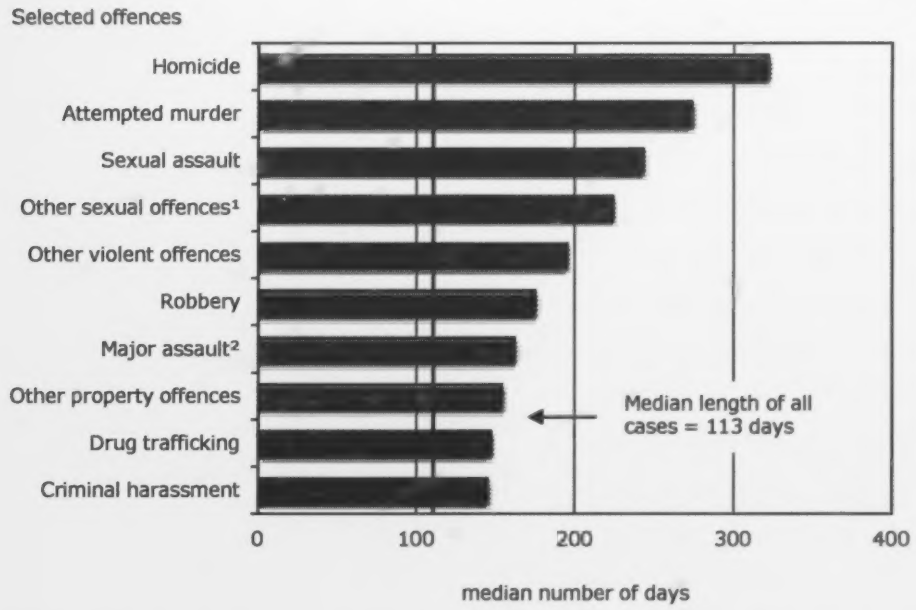
Chart 9
Median length of cases completed in youth court, by province and territory, 2010/2011



Note: The median represents the mid-point of the number of days taken to complete a case, from the first to last court appearance. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Jurisdictional differences in the structure and operation of courts may have an impact on survey results. Therefore, any comparisons between jurisdictions should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

The amount of time to process youth court cases also varied by case type (Chart 10). In general, cases involving violent offences took the longest time to process. More specifically, in 2010/2011, homicide cases took the longest to complete with a median length of 323 days, followed by attempted murder cases (275 days) and sexual assault cases (244 days).

Chart 10
Median length of cases completed in youth court, by selected offence, Canada, 2010/2011



1. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
2. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).

Note: The median represents the mid-point of the number of days taken to complete a case, from the first to last court appearance. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Summary

In 2010/2011 the number of cases completed in youth court declined for the second year in a row. The decrease in caseload occurred across the majority of jurisdictions, and across most crime categories. The majority of cases heard in youth court involved non-violent offences, with theft, *Youth Criminal Justice Act* offences, and break and enter being among the most common types of cases completed.

Similar to previous years, the most common decision in youth court cases was one of guilt. However, over the past 10 years the proportion of cases resulting in a guilty outcome has decreased, while the proportion of cases resulting in a stay or withdrawal has increased.

Consistent with sentencing principles under the *YCJA*, the proportion of youth court cases being sentenced to custody continued to decline in 2010/2011, while the proportion of youth court cases given a sentence of deferred custody and supervision has increased. Overall, probation continued to be the most common sentence handed down in youth court cases.

In general, the length of time to complete youth court cases has increased over the past 10 years, with the largest increase occurring between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004. On the whole, it took three and a half months to process a youth court case in 2010/2011.

Data source

Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS)

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) is administered by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (Statistics Canada) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for criminal courts in Canada. The survey collects statistical information on adult and youth court cases involving *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges. Data contained in this article represent the youth court portion of the survey. The individuals involved are persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. All youth courts in Canada have reported data to the YCS since the 1991/1992 fiscal year.

The primary unit of analysis is a case. A case is defined as one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. A case combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision, or date of sentencing) into a single case.

A case that has more than one charge is represented by the charge with the "most serious offence" (MSO). The most serious offence is selected using the following rules. First, court decisions are considered and the charge with the "most serious decision" (MSD) is selected. Court decisions for each charge in a case are ranked from most to least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) acquitted, 4) stay of proceeding, 5) withdrawn, dismissed and discharged, 6) not criminally responsible, 7) other, and 8) transfer of court jurisdiction.

Second, in cases where two or more charges result in the same MSD (e.g., guilty), *Criminal Code* sanctions are considered. The charge with the most serious offence type is selected according to an Offence Seriousness Scale, based on actual sentences handed down by courts in Canada.[15] Each offence type is ranked by looking at (a) the proportion of guilty charges where custody was imposed and (b) the average (mean) length of custody for the specific type of offence. These values are multiplied together to arrive at the final seriousness ranking for each type of offence. If, after looking at the offence seriousness scale, two or more charges remain tied then information about the sentence type and duration of the sentence are considered (e.g., custody and length of custody, then probation and length of probation, etc.).

Cases are counted according to the fiscal year in which they are completed. Each year, the ICCS database is "frozen" at the end of March for the production of court statistics pertaining to the preceding fiscal year. However, these counts do not include cases that were pending an outcome at the end of the reference period. Once an outcome is reached, or a one-year period of inactivity elapses, these cases are deemed complete and are subsequently updated and reported in the next year's release of the data. For example, upon the release of 2010/2011 data, the 2009/2010 data are updated with revisions that were determined when processing data for the next fiscal year. Data are revised once and are then permanently "frozen". Historically, updates to a previous year's numbers have resulted in an increase of about 2%.

Lastly, there are many factors that influence variations between jurisdictions. These may include Crown and police charging practices, offence distributions, and various forms of diversion programs. Therefore, any comparisons between jurisdictions should be interpreted with caution.

15. The offence seriousness scale is calculated using data from both the Adult Criminal Court (ACCS) and Youth Court Survey (YCS) components of the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) from 2002/2003 to 2006/2007.

References

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Detailed data tables

Table 1
Cases and charges completed in youth court, 2000/2001 to 2010/2011

	Total charges[1]		Total cases[2]	
Year	number	Percent change from previous year (%)	number	Percent change from previous year (%)
2000/2001	200,571	0	77,859	0
2001/2002	209,106	4	77,869	0
2002/2003	206,215	-1	76,204	-2
2003/2004	194,894	-5	64,029	-16
2004/2005	179,056	-8	57,675	-10
2005/2006	180,585	1	57,467	0
2006/2007	185,409	3	57,482	0
2007/2008	191,194	3	58,710	2
2008/2009	194,142	2	58,968	0
2009/2010	189,494	-2	56,859	-4
2010/2011	178,356	-6	52,904	-7
Percent change 2000/2001 to 2010/2011	...	-11	...	-32

... not applicable
1. A charge refers to a formal accusation against an accused person or company involving a federal statute offence that has been processed by the courts and received a final decision.
2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 2
Cases completed in youth court, by province and territory, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Province or territory	2009/2010			2010/2011			Percent change in number of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011	Difference in length of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011
	number[1]	rate[2]	Median length of case (days)[3]	number[1]	rate[2]	Median length of case (days)[3]	(%)	(days)
Newfoundland and Labrador	633	1,800	86	605	1,758	114	-4.4	28
Prince Edward Island	206	1,799	22	180	1,620	29	-12.6	7
Nova Scotia	1,606	2,375	137	1,368	2,081	134	-14.8	-3
New Brunswick	1,352	2,521	64	1,236	2,360	65	-8.6	1
Quebec	7,915	1,394	113	7,459	1,356	120	-5.8	7
Ontario	23,888	2,379	115	22,074	2,234	113	-7.6	-2
Manitoba	3,311	3,234	141	3,405	3,362	141	2.8	0
Saskatchewan	5,140	6,041	96	5,022	5,975	85	-2.3	-11
Alberta	8,425	3,025	132	7,521	2,744	123	-10.7	-9
British Columbia	3,806	1,196	104	3,447	1,103	104	-9.4	0
Yukon	111	4,311	139	124	4,903	147	11.7	8
Northwest Territories	257	6,224	48	193	4,945	58	-24.9	10
Nunavut	209	5,295	79	270	6,715	65	29.2	-14
Canada	**56,859**	**2,243**	**116**	**52,904**	**2,130**	**113**	**-7.0**	-3

1. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition.
2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population (12 to 17 years old). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
3. Refers to the mid-point in the number of days taken to complete a case, from first to last court appearance.

Note: Jurisdictional differences in the structure and operation of courts may have an impact on survey results. Therefore, any comparisons between jurisdictions should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 3
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Type of offence[1]	2009/2010 number[2]	2009/2010 Median length of case (days)[3]	2010/2011 number[2]	2010/2011 Median length of case (days)[3]	Percent change in number of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (%)	Difference in median length of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (days)
Violent offences	**14,823**	**157**	**14,084**	**156**	**-5.0**	**-1**
Homicide	44	372	44	323	0.0	-49
Attempted murder	26	299	24	275	-7.7	-24
Robbery	2,539	183	2,562	176	0.9	-7
Sexual assault	929	240	953	244	2.6	4
Other sexual offences[4]	326	204	336	225	3.1	21
Major assault[5]	3,561	170	3,310	163	-7.0	-7
Common assault	4,477	134	4,183	127	-6.6	-7
Uttering threats	2,424	133	2,135	136	-11.9	3
Criminal harassment	174	145	196	146	12.6	1
Other violent offences	323	183	341	196	5.6	13
Property offences	**22,242**	**116**	**20,194**	**114**	**-9.2**	**-2**
Theft[6]	8,454	105	7,832	106	-7.4	1
Break and enter	4,835	131	4,331	128	-10.4	-3
Fraud	837	122	631	113	-24.6	-9
Mischief	4,253	116	3,716	114	-12.6	-2
Possess stolen property	3,249	120	3,113	120	-4.2	0
Other property crimes	614	155	571	155	-7.0	0
Administration of justice offences	**6,104**	**85**	**5,635**	**76**	**-7.7**	**-9**
Fail to appear	292	72	301	50	3.1	-22
Breach of probation	164	59	175	64	6.7	5
Unlawfully at large	420	17	423	9	0.7	-8
Fail to comply with order	4,045	98	3,696	85	-8.6	-13
Other administration of justice offences	1,183	86	1,040	87	-12.1	1
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**2,967**	**135**	**2,668**	**140**	**-10.1**	**5**
Weapons offences	2,016	143	1,813	142	-10.1	-1
Prostitution	10	119	14	130	40.0	11
Disturb the peace	187	125	164	106	-12.3	-19
Residual *Criminal Code*	754	127	677	134	-10.2	7
Total *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic)	**46,136**	**126**	**42,581**	**123**	**-7.7**	**-3**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**1,118**	**106**	**943**	**97**	**-15.7**	**-9**
Impaired driving	625	78	558	70	-10.7	-8
Other *Criminal Code* traffic offences	493	134	385	136	-21.9	2

Table 3 (continued)
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Type of offence[1]	2009/2010 number[2]	2009/2010 Median length of case (days)[3]	2010/2011 number[2]	2010/2011 Median length of case (days)[3]	Percent change in number of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (%)	Difference in median length of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (days)
Total *Criminal Code* offences (including traffic)	**47,254**	**126**	**43,524**	**122**	**-7.9**	**-4**
Other federal statute offences	**9,605**	**64**	**9,380**	**63**	**-2.3**	**-1**
Drug possession	2,556	92	2,551	89	-0.2	-3
Other drug offences[7]	1,279	141	1,209	148	-5.5	7
Youth Criminal Justice Act	5,685	43	5,566	41	-2.1	-2
Other federal statutes	85	12	54	29	-36.5	17
Total offences	**56,859**	**116**	**52,904**	**113**	**-7.0**	**-3**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are counted according to the most serious offence rule.
2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition.
3. Refers to the mid-point in the number of days taken to complete a case, from first to last court appearance.
4. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
5. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
6. Includes, for example, theft over and under $5,000 as well as taking a motor vehicle without consent.
7. Includes drug trafficking, exportation and importation, and production.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 4
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence and decision, Canada, 2010/2011

Type of offence[1]	Guilty[2]		Acquitted		Stay/ Withdrawn[3]		Other[4]		Total cases[5]	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Violent offences	**8,073**	**57**	**361**	**3**	**5,567**	**40**	**83**	**1**	**14,084**	**100**
Homicide	24	55	0	0	17	39	3	7	44	100
Attempted murder	9	38	2	8	12	50	1	4	24	100
Robbery	1,504	59	45	2	1,007	39	6	0	2,562	100
Sexual assault	515	54	57	6	375	39	6	1	953	100
Other sexual offences[6]	255	76	14	4	64	19	3	1	336	100
Major assault[7]	2,059	62	94	3	1,134	34	23	1	3,310	100
Common assault	2,290	55	58	1	1,812	43	23	1	4,183	100
Uttering threats	1,159	54	64	3	899	42	13	1	2,135	100
Criminal harassment	88	45	7	4	99	51	2	1	196	100
Other violent offences	170	50	20	6	148	43	3	1	341	100
Property offences	**9,784**	**48**	**115**	**1**	**10,216**	**51**	**79**	**0**	**20,194**	**100**
Theft[8]	3,473	44	30	0	4,300	55	29	0	7,832	100
Break and enter	2,738	63	28	1	1,547	36	18	0	4,331	100
Fraud	339	54	1	0	286	45	5	1	631	100
Mischief	1,686	45	22	1	2,000	54	8	0	3,716	100
Possess stolen property	1,260	40	27	1	1,810	58	16	1	3,113	100
Other property crimes	288	50	7	1	273	48	3	1	571	100
Administration of justice offences	**3,615**	**64**	**31**	**1**	**1,933**	**34**	**56**	**1**	**5,635**	**100**
Fail to appear	126	42	2	1	172	57	1	0	301	100
Breach of probation	116	66	0	0	58	33	1	1	175	100
Unlawfully at large	379	90	0	0	44	10	0	0	423	100
Fail to comply with order	2,240	61	19	1	1,384	37	53	1	3,696	100
Other administration of justice offences	754	73	10	1	275	26	1	0	1,040	100
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**1,512**	**57**	**28**	**1**	**1,103**	**41**	**25**	**1**	**2,668**	**100**
Weapons offences	1,044	58	16	1	743	41	10	1	1,813	100
Prostitution	6	43	0	0	8	57	0	0	14	100
Disturb the peace	73	45	1	1	90	55	0	0	164	100
Residual *Criminal Code*	389	57	11	2	262	39	15	2	677	100
Total *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic)	**22,984**	**54**	**535**	**1**	**18,819**	**44**	**243**	**1**	**42,581**	**100**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**769**	**82**	**19**	**2**	**152**	**16**	**3**	**0**	**943**	**100**
Impaired driving	482	86	14	3	62	11	0	0	558	100
Other *Criminal Code* traffic offences	287	75	5	1	90	23	3	1	385	100

Table 4 (continued)
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence and decision, Canada, 2010/2011

Type of offence[1]	Guilty[2]		Acquitted		Stay/ Withdrawn[3]		Other[4]		Total cases[5]	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Total *Criminal Code* offences (including traffic)	**23,753**	**55**	**554**	**1**	**18,971**	**44**	**246**	**1**	**43,524**	**100**
Other federal statute offences	**6,155**	**66**	**66**	**1**	**3,105**	**33**	**54**	**1**	**9,380**	100
Drug possession	876	34	12	0	1,653	65	10	0	2,551	100
Other drug offences[9]	673	56	33	3	491	41	12	1	1,209	100
Youth Criminal Justice Act	4,[illegible]72	82	21	0	944	17	29	1	5,566	100
Other federal statutes	34	63	0	0	17	31	3	6	54	100
Total offences	**29,908**	**57**	**620**	**1**	**22,076**	**42**	**300**	**1**	**52,904**	**100**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are counted according to the most serious offence rule.
2. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.
3. Includes stays, withdrawals, dismissals and discharges at preliminary inquiry as well as court referrals to alternative or extrajudicial measures and restorative justice programs.
4. Includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.
5. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition.
6. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
7. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
8. Includes, for example, theft over and under $5,000 as well as taking a motor vehicle without consent.
9. Includes drug trafficking, exportation and importation, and production.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 5
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence and selected sentence, Canada, 2010/2011

Type of offence[1]	Total number of guilty cases	Custody[2,3]			Probation			Community service order	
		number[4]	%	Median length of sentence (days)[5]	number[6]	%	Median length of sentence (days)[6]	number	%
Violent offences	**8,073**	**1,359**	**17**	**66**	**5,326**	**66**	**365**	**1,676**	**21**
Homicide	24	11	46	795	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder	9	7	78	575	2	22	0	0	0
Robbery	1,504	516	34	120	1,112	74	365	392	26
Sexual assault	515	59	11	150	390	76	540	54	10
Other sexual offences[7]	255	31	12	120	182	71	540	24	9
Major assault[8]	2,059	384	19	61	1,404	68	365	412	20
Common assault	2,290	148	6	20	1,255	55	365	472	21
Uttering threats	1,159	142	12	28	776	67	360	251	22
Criminal harassment	88	11	13	24	74	84	365	25	28
Other violent offences	170	50	29	103	131	77	360	46	27
Property offences	**9,784**	**1,162**	**12**	**40**	**6,232**	**64**	**365**	**2,649**	**27**
Theft[9]	3,473	336	10	30	1,995	57	360	964	28
Break and enter	2,738	418	15	60	2,021	74	365	720	26
Fraud	339	32	9	41	225	66	365	102	30
Mischief	1,686	157	9	30	987	59	365	433	26
Possess stolen property	1,260	182	14	30	779	62	365	359	28
Other property crimes	288	37	13	60	225	78	365	71	25
Administration of justice offences	**3,615**	**799**	**22**	**20**	**1,646**	**46**	**365**	**700**	**19**
Fail to appear	126	16	13	15	56	44	365	26	21
Breach of probation	116	11	9	4	58	50	360	27	23
Unlawfully at large	379	274	72	30	82	22	365	43	11
Fail to comply with order	2,240	350	16	15	1,048	47	365	411	18
Other administration of justice offences	754	148	20	29	402	53	365	193	26
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**1,512**	**214**	**14**	**60**	**1,004**	**66**	**360**	**376**	**25**
Weapons offences	1,044	157	15	60	692	66	365	185	18
Prostitution	6	0	0	0	4	67	318	1	17
Disturb the peace	73	0	0	0	24	33	270	18	25
Residual *Criminal Code*	389	57	15	60	284	73	360	172	44
Total *Criminal Code* (excluding traffic)	**22,984**	**3,534**	**15**	**42**	**14,208**	**62**	**365**	**5,401**	**23**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**769**	**50**	**7**	**90**	**316**	**41**	**365**	**148**	**19**
Impaired driving	482	6	1	150	148	31	360	86	18
Other *Criminal Code* traffic offences	287	44	15	89	168	59	365	62	22
Total *Criminal Code* (including traffic)	**23,753**	**3,584**	**15**	**44**	**14,524**	**61**	**365**	**5,549**	**23**

Table 5 (continued)
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence and selected sentence, Canada, 2010/2011

		Custody[2,3]			Probation			Community service order	
Type of offence[1]	Total number of guilty cases	number[4]	%	Median length of sentence (days)[5]	number[6]	%	Median length of sentence (days)[6]	number	%
Other federal statute offences	**6,155**	**1,055**	**17**	**20**	**2,855**	**46**	**360**	**1,851**	**30**
Drug possession	876	15	2	17	388	44	360	276	32
Other drug offences[10]	673	60	9	60	494	73	365	225	33
Youth Criminal Justice Act	4,572	980	21	20	1,964	43	360	1,343	29
Other federal statutes	34	0	0	0	9	26	365	7	21
Total offences	**29,908**	**4,639**	**16**	**35**	**17,379**	**58**	**365**	**7,400**	**25**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are counted according to the most serious offence rule.
2. Section 85(1) of the *YCJA* specifies that the provinces and territories must provide for at least two levels of custody; however the levels are not defined (as in the *YOA*, which provided for open and secure levels of custody). The majority of provinces and territories no longer maintain data in their operational systems pertaining to the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced.
3. Since custody orders under the *YCJA* include a mandatory period of post-custody supervision, the figures for custody include the post-custody supervision portion of the order effective April 1, 2003.
4. Excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown.
5. Custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Also excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown.
6. Excludes cases in which the length of the probation sentence was unknown.
7. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
8. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
9. Includes, for example, theft over and under $5,000 as well as taking a motor vehicle without consent.
10. Includes drug trafficking, exportation and importation, and production.

Note: Cases may involve more than one type of sentence and/or other sentences not shown, therefore, percentages do not total 100%. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.